

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 128615
ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 ICAE-00
INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03
NSAE-00 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 SCS-06 CA-01 A-01
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA PRIORITY
USINT HAVANA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PROP, XA, CG

SUBJECT: WASHINGTON PRESS COVERAGE OF SHABA RESCUE
OPERATION

1. ZAIRE SITUATION DOMINATES FRONT PAGES OF EARLY EDITIONS
OF SUNDAY WASHINGTON PAPERS. POST FRONTPAGES A STORY FILED
FROM KOLWEZI BY DAVID OTTAWAY DESCRIBING "DEATH AND DESTRUC-
TION IN A TERRORIZED CITY IN ZAIRE" (HEADLINE). ARTICLE
STATES THAT "AT LEAST 100 WHITE HOSTAGES WERE KILLED BY
KATANGAN REBELS DURING WHAT MAY TURN OUT TO HAVE BEEN THE
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WORST MASSACRE OF EUROPEANS IN MODERN AFRICAN HISTORY."
STORY CONCENTRATES ON DESCRIPTIONS OF TERROR DURING SEIGE
AND QUESTIONS WHETHER ENOUGH EXPATRIATES WILL REMAIN OR
RETURN TO KEEP KOLWEZI FUNCTIONING AS COPPER CENTER ECO-
NOMICALLY VITAL TO ZAIRE. ACCOMPANYING BOX DESCRIBES
RELIEF OF REFUGEES AT ARRIVAL OF PARATROOPERS.

2. POST ALSO BANNERS AN ARTICLE BY MURRAY MARDER DESCRIBING "STRUGGLE LOOMING OVER HILL CONSTRAINTS ON PRESIDENT" WHICH STATES THAT "PRESIDENT CARTER IS COMPLAINING THAT HE HAS TO OPERATE UNDER VERY TIGHT CONSTRAINTS TO COUNTER WITH LIMITED MEANS THE SOVIET UNION'S UNCHECKED ABILITY TO SEND CUBAN TROOPS INTO FOREIGN ADVENTURES IN AFRICA." ARTICLE PREDICTS "BURGEONING AND POTENTIALLY EXPLOSIVE" CLASH OVER

CONGRESSIONAL RESTRICTIONS "TRIGGERED BY THE CONFLICT IN ZAIRE." MARDER SAYS THIS HAS FORCED TO THE SURFACE "SIMMERING EXASPERATION" INSIDE THE WHITE HOUSE OVER WHAT THE PRESIDENT AND BRZEZINSKI SEE AS HAMSTRING LIMITATIONS IN CHECKMATING SOVIET/CUBAN ADVENTURISM IN AFRICA. SENATOR BYRD (D-W.VA.) IS QUOTED AS DISAGREEING THAT CONGRESSSIONAL AMENDMENTS HAVE "TIED THE PRESIDENT'S HANDS" AND SUPPORTING DECISION TO ACT IN ZAIRE, CALLING IT "MEASURED, DELIBERATE AND ADEQUATE." SEN. MCGOVERN (D-S.D.) IS QUOTED AS EXPRESSING CONCERN THAT SALT COULD BE ENDANGERED BY "THIS ANGER BUILDING UP" IN CONGRESS AND ADMINISTRATION OVER SOVIET-CUBAN ACTIONS IN AFRICA.

3. REST OF POST'S COVERAGE AND TWO FRONTPAGE ARTICLES IN STAR BY ERIK VAN EES DATED KOLWEZI AND KINSHASA CONCENTRATE ON ACCOUNTS OF "FRENCH AND BELGIAN PARATROOPERS TAKING KOLWEZI AND RESCUING 2,500 TRAPPED WESTERNERS THERE, BUT NOT BEFORE THE RETREATING REBELS MASSACRED ABOUT 150 UNCLASSIFIED

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WHITES". ARTICLES ALL PLAY UP DRAMA OF RESCUE OPERATION AND EXTENT OF MASSACRE RATHER THAN EXTENT OF US INVOLVEMENT. STAR ALSO CARRIES BYRD'S DENIAL THAT CLARK AMENDMENT OR OTHERS RESTRICT PRESIDENT FROM RESPONDING TO REQUESTS FOR AID FROM FRIENDLY GOVERNMENTS "CONFRONTED WITH COMMUNIST ATTACKS." VANCE

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